

June 12, 2003

WISCONSIN FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE
NOTICE FOTG WI-5

The following revisions to the Wisconsin FOTG have been posted on the Wisconsin e-FOTG website:

Section I

- Doane's Agricultural Report, 2003 Machinery Custom Rates Guide, dated 5/16/03

Section IV

- Standard 575, Animal Trails and Walkways, dated 6/03
- Standard 595, Pest Management, dated 6/03
- Standard 607, Surface Drainage Field Ditch, dated 6/03
- Specification 4, Concrete, dated 6/03
- Specification 17, Wire Mesh Gabions and Mattresses, dated 6/03
- Specification 18, Sack or Tubular Gabion, dated 6/03

Section I

The Doane's Agricultural Report, 2003 Machinery Custom Rates Guide, is an update to the 2002 guide.

Section IV

Standard 575 was revised to reflect the new "Definition" and "Purpose" sections that were included in a recent revision to the National Standard.

Standard 595 was revised to include an environmental risk assessment for pesticide use (WIN-PST) and a tool to evaluate pesticide alternatives (WeedSOFT).

Standard 607, Surface Drainage Field Ditch, was revised to reflect the new "Definition" and "Purpose" sections that were included in a recent revision to the National Standard.

Specification 4, Concrete, has been revised in recognition of the challenges to placing concrete on sloped surfaces as is commonly required for manure storage pond liners and ramps. Successful placement of sloped concrete surfaces requires additional preparation, experience, and skill on the part of the contractor as well as more diligent oversight by construction inspectors. Consequently, additional criteria have been developed for sloped concrete installations with

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special attention given to base preparation, securing reinforcement, concrete depth control, and consolidation.

Revision of Specification 4 by the team was preceded by field observations and testing to evaluate the concrete placement method commonly referred to as the "flow" or "glacial" method. The concrete mix of a specific slump is discharged near the top of the slope and then moves by gravity and raking along the entire slope. Though the method requires greater skill and preparation, adequate results can be achieved with considerable cost savings. It was concluded that the challenges associated with this placement method are common to pumping or conveyor placement. The specification acknowledges the "flow" method, along with pumping and conveyors, as acceptable placement methods provided that the installers can deliver the required outcome. The team that revised this specification wants all users to recognize that placing concrete on sloped surfaces is difficult and requires additional care from both contractor and inspector.

Specifications 17, Wire Mesh Gabions and Mattresses, and 18, Sack or Tubular Gabion, have been revised to allow the use of ring fasteners for assembling and closing the baskets.

A link to the Wisconsin e-FOTG can be found on the Wisconsin NRCS web site at <http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/>.



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